

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of claims:

1. (previously amended) An introducer sheath comprising:
a shaft extending from a proximal end portion to a distal end portion; and
a distal tip section at said distal end portion of said shaft;
said shaft and said distal tip section comprising fluorinated ethylene propylene and
being joined by a thermal bond, said distal tip section containing between about 20% and
75% by weight of a radiopaque material selected from the group consisting of tungsten,
titanium, tantalum, platinum, gold, silver, bismuth trioxide and lead, and
said shaft being distinctly less radiopaque than said distal tip section.

2. (original) The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said distal tip
section contains between about 50% to 55% by weight of radiopaque material.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 2, wherein
said radiopaque material is tungsten.

5. (original) The introducer sheath according to claim 4, wherein said tungsten
particles range in size from about 0.5 microns to about 25 microns.

6. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 5, wherein
said tungsten particles range in size from about 1.4 microns to about 1.8 microns.

7-12. (canceled)

13. (original) The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said distal tip

section was initially a separate member.

14. (previously amended) An introducer sheath comprising:
a shaft extending from a proximal end to a distal end; and
a distal tip section at said distal end of said shaft,
said shaft and said distal tip section comprising fluorinated
ethylene propylene, said distal tip section containing radiopaque particles, said shaft being
distinctly less radiopaque than said distal tip section,
said distal tip section contains between about 50% and 55% by weight of tungsten
particles that range in size from about 1.4 microns to about 1.8 microns.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (new) An introducer sheath comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion; and
a distal tip section bonded to said shaft at said shaft distal end portion, said distal tip
section consisting essentially of fluorinated ethylene propylene containing between about
20% and 75% by weight of a radiopaque material, wherein said distal tip section is distinctly
more radiopaque than said shaft section.

18. (new) The introducer sheath of claim 17, wherein said shaft comprises
fluorinated ethylene propylene.

19. (new) The introducer sheath of claim 18, wherein said distal tip section
radiopaque material is selected from the group consisting of tungsten, titanium, tantalum,
platinum, gold, silver, bismuth trioxide and lead.

20. (new) The introducer sheath of claim 19, wherein said distal tip section
contains between about 50 and 55% by weight of said radiopaque material.

21. (new) The introducer sheath of claim 20, wherein said radiopaque material comprises tungsten.

22. (new) The introducer sheath of claim 18, wherein said shaft comprises a radiopaque filler.

23. (new) The introducer sheath of claim 17, wherein said distal tip section comprises a fluorinated ethylene propylene extrusion having particles of said radiopaque material dispersed in said extrusion.